

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

R-10

#2343

REPLY TO: 5220 Detection

October 10, 1972

SUBJECT: Summary of Detection Surveys on the Chugach N.F.



to: The Record

The following information is based on aerial and ground surveys that were conducted on the Chugach National Forest during the 1972 field season. Spruce beetle detection surveys were flown over the Anchorage, Cordova and Kenai Ranger Districts in late July. The Prince William Sound portions of the Anchorage and Cordova Districts were reflighted in August, during the defoliator survey. Afognak Island, scheduled for aerial reconnaissance, was not flown because of adverse weather.

Ground surveys, conducted at various times from June through early October, were made by entomologists from the Regional Office and the Forestry Sciences Laboratories located at Fairbanks and Juneau. The general areas included were Kenai Lake, Juneau Lake, and lower Russian River, and the Trail River campground on the Kenai District; the Granite Creek-East Fork and Resurrection Creek drainages on the Anchorage District; and the various locations in the Prince William Sound visited during the annual defoliator survey.

The results of these surveys indicate that insect populations have not significantly increased since 1971. Chronic spruce beetle activity continues in several locations in the Granite Creek-East Fork drainage. However, no new outbreaks of either defoliators or spruce beetle were observed.

The following is a breakdown of survey observations by Ranger Districts on the Forest:

Anchorage Ranger District

1. The infestations in the East Fork drainage active since 1967 are now subsiding. Very little new mortality was observed from the air and ground sampling detected very few newly attacked trees. The ratio of green infested to red-top trees was less than 1:1.
2. Examination of 1969 and 1971 blowdown in the Resurrection Creek drainage indicates that light, widely scattered broods exist, but pose no immediate threat to standing green trees. Emerging populations are expected to infest portions of the remaining green blowdown during 1973-1974.
3. No defoliator damage was observed in any of the spruce or hemlock stands in the Prince William Sound.

4. Additional blowdown, amounting to more than 100 acres, was observed along the branches on the east side of the Resurrection Creek drainage from Caribou to East Creek.

Kenai Ranger District

1. No insect damage was observed in any of the spruce or hemlock stands surveyed.

2. Blowdown, located at the edge of the Ptarmigan Creek campground and in portions of the Trail River campground, is lightly infested with broods of spruce beetle. No epidemic in green standing trees is expected to result from this minor build-up. Pest observations indicate that this portion of the Kenai Peninsula does not generally sustain large populations of bark beetles. This may possibly be because of the cool damp summers which normally occur in this area.

However, it would be prudent to remove the blowdown and minimize the possibility of an unwanted build-up resulting from an unusually dry season.

3. The lower portion of the newly constructed Resurrection Pass Trail contains a considerable amount of downed material infested with the spruce beetle. No green infested spruce were observed. However, it is advised that the infested material be removed, peeled, or treated with ethylene debromide and diesel to eliminate the possibility of a spruce beetle outbreak occurring in this area.

4. No recent blowdown was observed.

Cordova Ranger District

1. Recent defoliation, presumably caused by the blackheaded budworms, was observed at two locations on the south side of Marsha Bay on Knight Island and at one location on the south side of Paddy Bay in Dangerous Passage.

2. Top kill and scattered dead trees were commonly observed in the stands that were defoliated by the blackheaded budworms in 1969-1970. Areas of concentrated top-kill were noted between Paddy and Granite Bays and on Crafton Island.

3. Top-killing, resulting from porcupine girdling, was observed along the northwest side of Eyak Lake and on the northwest side of Sheep Bay in the Vicinity of Shalin Creek.

4. The clearcuts on the northwest side of Montague Island between Oirt Chalmers and Hanning Bay do not appear to be putting on the growth necessary to produce a second harvest within a 120 year rotation period.

These units were reasonably well stocked, but appeared to be growing at a very modest rate.

5. No recent blowdown was observed.

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to avoid delay*